25. Salt. The extent of land under salt manufacture in South Travancore is steadily increasing, the total available area rising from 376·4 acres in 1095 to 473·6 acres in 1098. The monopoly factories at Tamarakulam, Rajakkamangalam and Colachel stood in urgent need of certain important works for the prevention of percolation of fresh water and for the easy conduct of brine from the sea. These works have now been completed by the Public Works Department and it should be possible for the owners of the factories concerned to show better outturn in future. The quantity of salt manufactured in the factories was higher in 1098 than in any previous year, in spite of the damage caused to the pans by the cyclone of Vrischikam in that year.

26. Industries. As stated by me in my Address in previous years, the Department of Industries had, in the first place, to be purged of its unsound and unpractical activities and directed along fruitful channels. This has now been done, and this department, on whose staff a large number of trained experts are borne, is beginning to make its usefulness felt. The Oil Chemist toured throughout the State to gather first hand information in regard to the kind, quality and quantity of oils available, the methods of their production, the conditions of their export and import, the prospects of the local industries utilising them and the advisability of starting fresh ones for their utilisation. He also instructed the people in the several uses to which oils could be put and advised improvements in the processes of their manufacture. With a view to carry on work in the refinement of oils, the manufacture of soap by the boiling process on a semi-factory scale, the evolution of suitable improvements in the cold process now in vogue, and the investigation of the possibilities of candle manufacture, he has recommended the establishment of a workshop with suitable equipment, and the Government have instructed the Chief Engineer to include a shed for his work in the estimate to be submitted for the Central Institute of Technology.

27. More than two lakhs of hides are exported annually from Travancore, and the Leather Expert has pointed out that there is ample scope for converting a large portion of them locally into leather—chiefly half-tans—seeing that there is no dearth of tanning materials and other manufacturing facilities in the country. What is needed is a model factory on a modest scale where improved methods of vegetable and chrome tanning could be successfully demonstrated; and with a view to start such a factory, the buildings in the abandoned agricultural farm at Karamanai are being suitably repaired.

28. A small dye-house and a place for the demonstration of improved methods of, and designs in, weaving and knitting have been provided for the work of the Textile Expert. These will form the nucleus of the Central Institute of Technology referred to in my Address last year, and it is proposed to start the training of pupils in weaving, knitting and dyeing. The Textile Expert is also engaged in inspecting the S. M. R. V. Technical School at Nagercoil and the grant-in-aid weaving schools scattered over the State and in giving advice in textile manufacture and dyeing to those that seek it. He has further to supervise the work of the two Peripatetic Weaving Instructors and to do research work on indigenous dyes. The plans and estimates for the Institute of Technology have already been prepared and a provision of Rs. 15,000 has been made in the current year's budget for the commencement of the work.

29. The Industrial Engineer has investigated the engineering and industrial aspects of the Kallar hydro-electric scheme. He has also collected statistics regarding the production, consumption and cost of power at the different industrial centres in Travancore. He has further made a study of the present methods of pumping in Kuttanad and has been advising the people concerned how the large waste of power which is incidental to those methods may be successfully avoided. He is also the Chief Boiler Inspector and has, in that capacity, done extensive touring and inspection of boilers. His work in regard to the introduction of hand-pumps for lifting water and the formulation of a cheap scheme for electrifying the town of Trivandrum will be found mentioned elsewhere.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly